



# ***JPRS Report***

## **Near East & South Asia**

***IRAN***

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# Near East & South Asia

## IRAN

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13 April 1992

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## REGIONAL AFFAIRS

### Immigrants Said To Be Preventing Economic Expansion

92AS0786N Tehran SALAM in Persian 14 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] Ways to achieve cooperation between the office of the UN High Commissioner in Iran and the Ministry of the Interior were studied yesterday morning at a meeting between the supervisor of the office of the UN High Commissioner in Tehran and the general manager of the Ministry of the Interior's Office of Foreign Nationals and Refugee Affairs.

At this meeting, 'Umar Bakht, supervisor of the office of the UN High Commissioner in Tehran, thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran and praised its policies of accepting refugees. He said: The UN High Commissioner is making every effort to obtain the cooperation of international organizations for the benefit of refugees.

He said: The program of the UN High Commissioner in Iran has gradually developed in the past few years and during the Gulf crisis the UN High Commissioner gave its highest levels of help to Iran.

'Umar Bakht discussed the problems of providing more services from the commission to refugees, and expressed the hope that the expanding relations between the commissioner and the Ministry of the Interior of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which reached new levels after the Persian Gulf war and the refugee crisis, will continue.

He added: As an international organization for refugee affairs, we are proud of what the Islamic Republic of Iran has done for refugees, and we want the world to know about this.

At this meeting, likewise Ahmad Hoseyni, general manager of the Office of Foreign Nationals and Refugee Affairs of the Ministry of the Interior, thanked the UN High Commissioner for its help with the Persian Gulf Crisis and the Iraqi refugees. He said: The nations of the world are sensitive in a crisis, but we expect that same sensitivity that was shown in helping the Iraqi refugees to be extended to dealing with the 3 million Afghan refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran to make it possible for them also to return to their country.

He added: More than one-fourth of all the refugees in the world are in Iran and the Islamic Republic of Iran naturally wants a bigger budget to be allocated by the UN High Commissioner to help the refugees in Iran, because refugees are a serious obstacle to the development of our nation's economy, and the international organizations must reduce the heavy financial burden we bear every year for refugees, because the refugees are not just the problem of the Islamic Republic of Iran, they are the whole world's problem.

The general manager of the Office of Foreign Nationals and Refugee Affairs of the Ministry of the Interior

emphasized that the UN High Commissioner must recognize that it is giving fewer services to Afghan refugees in the east of the country than it is giving to the Iraqi Kurds, and that it must make up for this deficiency.

Hoseyni added: The relationship of cooperation between the UN High Commissioner and the Islamic Republic of Iran is not one that can be expanded or contracted in special circumstances. The existence of 4 million refugees in Iran brings us together, and this matter demands more cooperation from international organizations, especially the UN High Commissioner.

In conclusion, he emphasized that the Islamic Republic of Iran takes a positive view of the activities of the UN High Commissioner and the nation's officials have emphasized this point repeatedly.

In conclusion he expressed thanks for the activities of other international agencies such as the World Food Program, the International Red Cross Committee, the International Immigration Organization, Physicians Without Borders (UNICA) and other organizations, which have helped the Islamic Republic of Iran in the area of providing services to refugees and seekers of asylum.

### Red Crescent Society Sends Relief Supplies to Azerbaijan

LD2303070492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT  
22 Mar 92

[Text] The Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran dispatched 20 tonnes of dates and medicine to the Republic of Azerbaijan yesterday afternoon. This consignment, which is a continuation of the humanitarian measures of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was sent to that republic via the border crossing at Astara.

### Suspended Tehran-Ankara Train Resumes Service

92AS0786G Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 12 Mar 92  
p 18

[Text] The Tehran-Ankara-Istanbul railroad, which was closed because of continuous avalanches on the Turkish railroad, was returned to service on Tuesday 27 Esfand [17 March] with the announcement by the Turkish railroad that it ready to accept trains again.

The Public Relations Office of Islamic Republic of Iran Railroads reports that passengers who have previously obtained tickets to ride the Tehran-Ankara-Istanbul railroad who wish to travel on Tuesday 27 Esfand must report no later than Saturday 24 Esfand [14 March] to the appropriate ticket booth at the Tehran Railroad Station, and present their passports in accordance with regulations.

This public relations office also added that tickets to ride the Tehran-Ankara-Istanbul railroad will be available for purchase every day from 0700 to 12:00.

**INTERNAL AFFAIRS****Appointments to Various Offices Announced****Tehran Agricultural Official Named**

92P40166A Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 10 Feb 92  
p 4

[Text] Economic Service—According to the public relations office of the Ministry of Agriculture, in a decree issued by Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari, Engineer Qorban'ali Khamseh, the ministry's director of public relations, while maintaining this position, was appointed supervisor of the Tehran province office of agriculture.

**Qazvin Medical College Dean Appointed**

92P40166B Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian  
11 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] News Division—In a decree issued by Minister of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education Dr. Reza Malekzadeh, Dr. Khosrow Ayazi was appointed and began work as the dean of Qazvin College of Medicine.

**District 24 Law Officer Named**

92P40166C Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 16 Feb 92  
p 13

[Text] News Service—The new head of law enforcement district 24 (Qalhak) was appointed and began work.

In a decree issued by Brigadier General Commander [Sardar Sartip] 'Abdollah 'Aqabayi, commander of the Greater Tehran law enforcement region, Colonel Guard [Sarhang Pasdar] 'Abbas Bakhshpur was appointed as the new head of law enforcement district 24, under the command of the northern Tehran law enforcement region.

**Birjand Law Officer Introduced**

92P40166D Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 16 Feb 92  
p 13

[Text] Birjand—ETTELA'AT correspondent: In a meeting attended by the commander of the Khorasan province law enforcement forces Timsar [military title preceding names of brigadiers and higher ranks] Rismanchiyan and Birjan city-region officials, Major Sadrollahi was introduced as the new commander of the Birjand law enforcement forces.

In this meeting, likewise, appreciation was expressed for the efforts of Colonel Dadpur, the former commander of this law enforcement region.

**Ministers on Lack of Concern about Natural Resources**

92AS0786H Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 12 Mar 92  
p 3

[Text] Based on the calculations that have been done, sedimentation entering the nation's three important dams, meaning the Karun, the Dez, and the Sefidrud, totals more than 50 million cubic meters annually. Every year 50 million cubic meters of the volume of these reservoirs, which could hold more than this amount of water, becomes unavailable.

This was discussed by Engineer Bizhan Zanganeh, minister of oil, yesterday, Wednesday, at a seminar to study renewable natural resources.

He said: The amount lost is itself equal to the volume of a new dam like the 'Alavian dam on the river Sufichay in East Azarbaijan, with a volume of about 60 million cubic meters.

Engineer Zangandeh added: Generalizing this subject to all the nation's dams, those that exist and those that will be in use in the future, the vast dimensions of concern for the question of water management and methods of controlling sedimentation are more clearly defined than before.

He noted: In the midst of this, central and basic measures are seen to be the development of pastures, the creation of forests, and protecting ground cover.

In his talk, the minister of energy discussed the importance of the nation's water resources, as well as the relationship of water and forest resources and forests and ground cover in general to water.

Likewise, Engineer Ne'matzadeh, minister of industries, gave a talk in which he discussed the importance of the role of pastures and forests in creating a balance between water, soil and air, as well as the creation of a healthy environment, and he deplored the current destruction of forests, pastures, and natural resources.

Engineer Ne'matzadeh said: The role of this seminar is necessary as a place to make a real reassessment of the accomplishments and analyses of the areas where we are falling behind in the area of natural resources.

He said: Various subjects such as ownership, management of natural resources, technology and specialization, technical approaches to the subject, marketing and product application, living with other planning sectors, and guidance and supervision are among the factors that must be reassessed.

The seminar to study renewable natural resources, which began on Tuesday at the National Forests and Pastures Organization, continued discussions and studies of various issues and the natural resources crisis for two days, and completed its work yesterday.

### Interior Minister Appeals to Voters

*LD2003093692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Mar 92*

[Text] The interior minister has called on all those who are eligible to vote to actively participate in the elections for the fourth Majles session.

According to a report by IRNA, the interior minister considers widespread participation in the elections the carrying out of the eminent imam's will, may his noble soil be sanctified, and of the guidelines of the exalted leadership [Khamene'i] and the observance of social and national obligations. He announced: The Interior Ministry has made the necessary arrangements to hold the elections for the fourth session of the Majles in the best possible way.

Interior Minister 'Abdollah Hamid Nuri-Huseynabadi has called on election officials to refrain from dealing with election issues on the basis of their personal taste and make sure the elections are carried out with utmost soundness and correctness.

The interior minister stressed: The authorities intend for the elections to be held soundly and correctly. Mr. Nuri added: Election officials must make arrangements in such a way that the people go to the polling stations with utmost freedom, peace and security to cast their votes for their chosen candidates and for the people to be sure that whomever is elected by the majority will go to the Majles.

### Invitation of 'Inimical' Duo to Seminar Questioned

*NC2803155792 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 10 Mar 92 p 2*

[Unattributed commentary: "The 'Sweet' Studies and the 'Wooden' Strategy"]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry's Institute of Political and International Studies recently convened a conference entitled "Upheaval in the former Soviet Union and its effects on the Third World." Unfortunately some people, inimical to the Islamic Republic of Iran and whose malicious analyses and commentaries have been heard on the VOA and the BBC, were invited to read papers and to deliver speeches.

One is Shirin Hunter, who is one of the VOA's active pawns in its psychological war against the Islamic revolution. The other is Shahram Chubin, who is a strong advertisement of collaboration with the CIA and who writes articles on its instructions.

They dealt a blow to the Islamic Republic of Iran's prestige by accepting the invitation and then acting negatively. On the eve of the seminar, they sent a message saying they were indisposed and would only

send in their articles! This was the second blow, insulting their hosts, the conveners, who are officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Worse. A Foreign Ministry Institute of Political and International Studies expert was assigned to read Shahram Chubin's article. He went to the rostrum and piled accolades on Chubin, saying he was honored to read the article!

What can be said about such thoughtless and uncalculated measures? Are officials slumbering or are they merely negligent?

Is our enemies' relentless cultural onslaught not enough that we have also created conditions for similar political attacks? Is there a connection between these attacks?

What system's foreign policy is the Institute of Political and International studies formulating by convening such conferences?

The Foreign Ministry and the institute will be unable to avoid answering these questions.

### Jungle Destruction Due to Lack of Laws, Coordination

*92AS0808C Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 12 Mar 92 p 17*

[Text] The lack of recognition of the real position of the National Forests and Pastures Organization among the nation's organizations and the daily and increasing destruction of forests have thwarted this organization's activities in revitalizing, preserving, and utilizing forests.

According to experts from the National Forests and Pastures Organization, the presentation of disturbing figures and statistics on the unnatural destruction of forests has become business as usual, and the main reason for this has been weak laws and noncoordination in preventing damage to forests.

The only way to save the nation's forests is to make use of all potential and active resources, because as long as the forest preservation program is regarded without consideration for the mission of protecting the forest environment, the destruction will continue.

Currently, in the nation's northern forests alone, more than 5 million head of livestock have arrested forest rejuvenation and renewal activities by feeding on fresh saplings.

Every year more than 100,000 hectares of the nation's best forests are destroyed by relentless tree cutting, fires, excessive consumption and other factors. Likewise every year millions of rials in wood is lost to fires burning up valuable saplings. In the midst of this, without a basic solution to the executive and legal problems in the forest preservation program, there will be nothing more than warnings.

Some of the forest custodians say that along with dealing with the profiteering from cutting wood, attention must also be given to the way these individuals make their living. If there is no basic program to preserve the remaining forests, especially in the northern part of the country, in view of the increasing population in the northern provinces, the situation with natural resources will become even more complicated.

IRNA reports that during his recent trip to Nowshahr Engineer Felah, chief of the National Forests and Pastures Organization, said the cutting of thousands of forest trees and saplings planted in forest planting programs in the western part of the country to procure winter fuel by the residents of the region is huge destruction.

The fact that forests are both government and nongovernment and the dual approach taken by the National

Forests and Pastures Organization are other problems in this area.

At the 35th meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1980, following extensive study and research in the area of costs and financial resources to prevent the spread of deserts and to revitalize some of the world's desert resources, it was announced that \$4.5 billion is needed annually to carry out this project and that by the year 2,000 it will cost \$90 billion.

In an unprecedented leap in the history of reforestation activities, this year the National Forests and Pastures Organization has produced 145 million saplings and through forest maintenance on more than 100,000 hectares it has revitalized some of the destroyed areas. Unfortunately, however, along with these activities has come the continued destruction of forests and pastures, and the soil erosion continues.



# **Heavy Industries Ministry's Activities Detailed**

92AS0767B Tehran RESALAT in Persian 3 Feb 92 p 3

[Text]

## **The Public Relations Offices of the Ministry of Heavy Industries Announced to RESALAT: More Than 83,000 Light and Heavy Vehicles Have Been Produced This Year**

Economic Section. The report on the operations of the production units under the supervision of the Ministry of Heavy Industries during the nine-month period of this year indicates that the coordinated and systematic policies of the government to eliminate the shortages and problems of the production units have affected the trend in production in the units under the supervision of this ministry, as in other units, and have contributed significantly to the rise in production of the heavy industries. A comparison of the statistics of production of the units under the supervision of the Ministry of Industries during nine months of this year with similar periods in 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989], 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], and 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] indicate the positive trend of increased production in the country.

Below there is a summary of the report on the operations of the Ministry of Heavy Industries in the nine months of 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992], which was placed at the disposal of our correspondent by the public relations office of that ministry.

According to the report, in the nine months of this year, a total of 83,750 light and heavy vehicles were produced in the production units under the supervision of the Ministry of Heavy Industries, whereas the figures for the nine months of 1367 [1988-89], 1368 [1989-90] and 1369 [1990-91] were 26,407, 25,154, and 35,960, respectively, and the [ratios of] production of various light and heavy vehicles this year compared to 1367 [1988-89], 1368 [1989-90] and 1369 [1990-91] were 3.17, 3.32, and 2.32 [ , respectively].

The production level of light and heavy vehicles separately in the nine months of this year were as follows: Buses, 2,463 units; minibuses, 5,194 units; trucks, 8,170 units; sedans, 37,918 units; pickup trucks, 18,178 units;

tractors, 9,598 units; combines, 438 units; lift trucks, 419 units; and road-building machinery, 1,372 units.

The report puts the production level of railroad cars in the nine months of this year at 490; assorted industrial and agricultural machinery, 35,017 units; gear boxes, 10,800 units; machine tools, 4,003 units, which compared to a similar period in 1369 [1990-91] is 1.24, 2.15, 3.55, and 1.12 [as published].

According to our correspondent's report, the added value of the heavy industries units, including investments, intermediate and durable consumer industries, in the nine months of this year was a total of 257,440 million rials, which separated by the added value include: investment industries, 179,460 million rials; intermediate industries, 60,929 million rials; and durable goods industries, 17,050 million rials.

According to the report, the total added value of the nine months of the plan for this year in investment, intermediate and durable goods industries was projected to be 342,222,000 rials. Compared to the actual operations of the nine months of this year, 75 percent of this amount has been achieved.

Also, the value of the production of the heavy industries units, including investment, intermediate and durable goods industries, in the nine months of this year is 535,998,000 rials.

In regards to the agreements in principle issued during the nine months of 1370 [1991-92], this report adds: During this period, a total of 1,037 agreements in principle were issued, including 1,030 private sector proposals and seven government projects. The fixed investments made for these totaled 961,318,000 rials, providing 43,981 jobs.

By comparison, the number of agreements in principle issued in 1369 [1990-91] were 550, with fixed investments of 411,157,000 rials and providing 27,420 jobs.

According to the public relations office of the Ministry of Heavy Industries, during the nine months of this year, 47 agreements in principle were issued for "assembly design" and 69 agreements in principle for engineering design, while in 1369 [1990-91] there were 29 and 23 agreements, respectively.

## **Comparison of Nine-Month Production of 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] With 1367 [1988-89], 1368 [1989-90], and 1369 [1990-91]**

Product	Nine-Month Production				Ratio of Production in 1370 [1991-92] to Production in		
	1367	1368	1369	1370	1367	1368	1369
Buses	505	582	446	2,463	4.88	4.23	5.52
Minibuses	1,972	1,371	1,229	5,194	3.63	3.8	4.24
Trucks	2,051	3,487	4,087	8,170	4.0	3.3	4.0
Sedans	14,891	6,971	14,824	37,918	3.55	3.8	0.96*
Pickup Trucks	2,189	3,274	9,904	18,178	8.3	5.6	1.84

**Comparison of Nine-Month Production of 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] With 1367 [1988-89], 1368 [1989-90], and 1369 [1990-91] (Continued)**

Product	Nine-Month Production				Ratio of Production in 1370 [1991-92] to Production in		
	1367	1368	1369	1370	1367	1368	1369
Tractors	4,342	6,959	6,335	9,598	2.21	1.38	1.54
Combines	126	259	496	438	3.48	1.69	0.88
Lift Trucks	180	68	416	419	2.33	6.16	1.0
Road-Building Machinery	159	183	245	1,373	8.6	7.5	6.1
Railroad Cars	134	332	403	490	3.61	1.48	1.24
Engines	—	4,818	16,482	35,017	—	7.3	4.15
Gear Boxes	1,492	1,420	3,044	10,800	7.4	7.6	3.55
Machine Tools	1,830	1,741	3,566	4,003	2.19	2.3	1.12
Compressors	152	862	665	1,249	8.3	1.4	1.9
Radiators (Tons)	953	837	1,865	2,132	2.24	2.55	1.12
Spark Plugs	359,600	1,905,600	4,523,600	6,396,162	1.78	3.36	1.41
Springs (Tons)	5,039	4,810	5,125	8,830	1.75	1.84	1.79
Shock Absorbers	32,570	197,400	335,000	421,845	1.29	2.19	1.29

\* [as translated; text almost illegible]

**Intracity, Intercity Telephone Rates Increase**

92AS0786E Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 9 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] Early in the month of Farvardin 1371 [21 March-20 April 1992] the rate for each metered unit of intercity and intracity telephone calls was set at 10 rials.

The Public Relations office of the Ministry of Post, Telegraph, and Telephone contacted KEYHAN and announced this news. It said:

Based on a measure enacted by the General Assembly of the Communication Company's shareholders and following the implementation of this measure, on 1 Farvardin 1369 [21 March 1990] and 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] the public was informed that as of 1 Farvardin 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] the rate for each metered unit of domestic (intercity and intracity) telephone calls would be set at 10 rials.

The Public Relations office of the Ministry of Post, Telegraph, and Telephone also said: The rate for each metered unit of intercity and intracity telephone calls was set at six rials for the current year.

This public relations office added: The communications rates in our country remain among the lowest compared to those in various other parts of the world.

It is necessary to mention that this increase is being implemented even though the first deputy to the president of the republic announced several days ago that the prices of government goods and services for the remainder of the year 1370 and during the year 1371 will under no circumstances increase, and the Majles has also prohibited any kind of price increase for the year 1371.

**Expansion of Transportation Network Advocated**

92AS0767A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 4 Feb 92 p 19

[Commentary]

[Text] The newly independent republics to the north of the country are very interested in expanding political, economic, and cultural relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. For the Islamic Republic of Iran as well, in addition to expanding political, cultural, and economic relations, the opportunity is now available, to increase its ways of communications and correspondence, and, as is appropriate to the economic expansion of the country, to take advantage of air and ground routes in the short term and, following that, to create and connect railroads and pave the way towards Eastern and Western Europe.

Under the new circumstances, the plan for the construction of a natural gas pipeline to Europe can be pursued once more and implemented, especially since with the independence of the republics to the north, Russia, which has rich natural gas resources in Siberia, will not be able to exert its influence. Also, now the delivery of crude oil and various fuel products from the former Soviet republics has dropped because of technical problems. In addition, the economic relations of the newly-independent countries to the north of Iran with the other formerly-communist countries of Eastern Europe is handled on the basis of "sound foreign currency," which, considering the shortage of foreign currency in these countries, it has also had negative effects on the Eastern countries in the area of energy. The "project of a natural gas pipeline from Iran to Eastern Europe" is a highly-desirable long-term prospect.



Hence, precise planning and expansive efforts are necessary immediately to take steps towards negotiations and winning effective agreements. The use of the overland roads of the Republics of Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenia, in addition to boosting Iranian exports, especially the export of oil and natural gas to Europe, will result in the expansion of nonoil exports to these republics. Thus, it is very much in the interests of Iran and the abovementioned republics.

The inclination of the Eastern European countries, particularly Bulgaria, in establishing relations between Iran and Western Europe must be taken into consideration in the decisions of the Iranian officials, because the expansion of the railroads and roads will influence the economic development of all the countries that are located between Iran and Western Europe and will play an essential role in strengthening relations among these countries. Hence, it will be useful to have a plan regarding the following.

1. Using the road transportation network:

(A) To the coast of the Black Sea, Iranian overland transportation continues to Jolfa. The possibility of connecting it with the overland transportation of the Republic of Armenia and then Georgia and up to the ports of Poti and Batumi on the coast of the Black Sea exist in the short term. Only by signing appropriate agreements will the use of the transportation network of the two countries be made possible and will the transit line, on the one hand, transport Iranian import goods and, on the other, transfer Iranian export goods, including oil and nonoil products, by truck from all three countries. This plan can be implemented in the short term.

(B) Up to the shore of the Pacific Ocean. There is a possibility for expanding the road transportation network of the country and connecting it with the Republics of Turkmenia, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan to reach China, up to the shores of the Pacific Ocean. Only the roads from Mashhad to 'Eshqabad and from Gorgan to the border of Turkmenia require the implementation of the development project and repair and construction to be usable for trucks and the transport of export goods from eastern Iran, which will find a good market in Turkmenia and Uzbekistan and even in China.

Also, by expediting the operation of the north-southeast road of the country, which connects the cities of the provinces of Khorasan and Sistan and Baluchestan to the Sea of Oman, it will be possible to revitalize this part of the country by connecting them and the newly independent former Soviet republics to the eastern and southern part of Iran.

2. The railroad transportation network exists and is being used in the eastern part of the Iranian railroad transportation network, up to Jolfa. The internal network of Nakhichevan, in the Republic of Armenia, also continues toward Baku in the Republic of Azerbaijan and from Baku to the ports of Poti and Batumi. This line

can only be used if another railroad is built from Nakhichevan to the middle section of the Baku-Poti or Baku-Batumi lines, which can be done with the cooperative efforts of Iran, Armenia, and Georgia and investments by the three countries. But, connecting the Iranian railroad network to Astara is also another way, which can be taken into consideration in developing trade through the railroad network in the short term, because the railroad in the Republic of Azerbaijan runs now from Astara to Baku and from Baku to the ports of Poti and Batumi.

The eastern section has a strong railroad network reaching the border with China. Considering the value that it could have in the transport of Iranian goods and products and their sale in the future in the East Asian and Central Asian markets, this must be pursued with precise economic calculations. Otherwise, the establishment of the railroad network from Mashhad to 'Eshqabad in Turkmenia may be sufficient.

3. The building of the Iranian natural gas pipeline to Europe. The Islamic Republic of Iran, with the cooperation and participation of Armenia, Georgia, Bulgaria, and possibly Rumania, will be able to carry out the natural gas pipeline to Europe. This project will have a positive effect on the sustained sale of natural gas, meeting the increasing demand for natural gas in Eastern and Western Europe. What is certain is that the Iranian natural gas pipeline can be extended across its borders to Armenia and then Georgia, to the ports of Poti and Batumi, and then with a natural gas pipeline under the sea to the Ports of Varna and Burgas in Bulgaria or the Port of Constanta in Rumania and, through Bulgaria, reach the consumer markets in Yugoslavia, Greece, and Italy. This pipeline can be connected through the Port of Constanta in Rumania to Hungary, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Germany, and Iranian natural gas could be piped to those countries.

Of course, in the interim, the plan to build a pipeline to the ports of Poti and Batumi can be implemented, and from there, making use of the shipping transportation network, Iranian natural gas can be transported to Rumania or Bulgaria. Of course, the implementation of liquid natural gas in Iran to be delivered via trucks and oil tankers can be taken into consideration in the short term and interim periods.

In any case, a plan with such projections can be effective by adding variety to the communications of the country with the outside world and creating economic relations and multilateral cooperation which can also bring economic development for the countries in the region.

**Reconstruction of Lowshan Power Plant Detailed**

92AS0711A Tehran SALAM in Persian 4, 12 Feb 92

[Report on Reconstructed Power Plant of Lowshan]

[4 Feb p 14]

[Text] Background: An opportunity arose to visit the recently reconstructed power plant of Lowshan, in the

company of some colleagues and company officials. The plant has been revived thanks to the will power of the brave men of Lowshan, and the sound of its engines and boilers is reflected throughout the wide plains of this part of our Islamic fatherland.

The following is a brief and hurriedly prepared report from this power plant and the successful process of its reconstruction as narrated by the authorities. It is also a glance at the solid and high dam of Manjil, the first part of which is now presented.

#### **Report by Naqi Aqalu**

**Introduction:** At a 90-km distance from the Qazvin-Rasht highway in a region known as Jamalabad, near the Shahrud River in Gilan Province, the Martyr Beheshti (Lowshan) power plant is standing tall, its tanks and other buildings visible from a distance.

This power plant has two steam units, each with a nominal power of 120 megawatts [MW] and two gas units with a nominal capacity of 60 MW each. The first steam unit of this plant started operating in 1352 [21 March 1973-20 March 1974] and the first gas unit on 2/28/1356 [18 May 1986].

The generator turbines for this plant were built by the Kraftwerk Union Company and its boilers by the Bursig Company of Germany. According to the plant's director, the Siemens Company of Germany also had a part in the construction and installation of its units.

The energy that is consumed in this plant is gas, which is provided through a connection to the national gas line. The plant also has four large diesel tanks that are used for emergencies, but these tanks are now empty because of a fuel shortage.

The water needed for the Lowshan plant is provided by a 20-meter-deep water well (falakhon), which is located in the northern corner of the Shahrood River. At present, there are three plants in our country. Plants with capacities of over 800 MW such as those of Neka and Bandar Abbas, medium-capacity plants that include Lowshan with a 360-MW capacity, and smaller plants with lower capacities.

According to Mr. Qasemi, the plant's director, electricity produced in this plant is transferred through 230- and 63-kilovolt [kV] transfer posts to the national electric system that meets 5 percent of national consumption, which is actually a small portion of the needs of this vast Islamic fatherland.

#### **The Period of Destruction and Experimentation**

On Thursday night, 21 June 1990 0036, an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.3 on the Richter scale broke the peace in the Roodbar, Manjil, and Lowshan regions and turned off the sound of units of this plant in the middle of the night. In its place, the crying and weeping of helpless women and children was reflected in the heart of the Alborz mountains.

In this terrible and heartbreaking accident during which thousands of men, women, and children lost their lives; considerable material destruction occurred. In this regard, the Lowshan plant suffered great damages. Seventeen employees of the plant died from this accident. Forty-eight spouses, 169 children, and 104 immediate relatives of workers, technicians, and employees of the plant also lost their lives. Monetary damages to the plant was also very high. At the moment of the earthquake, the gas units were out of use because they were under repair. Consequently, they suffered little damage. But the steam unit experienced a great deal of damage.

It must be mentioned that units of the plant were not damaged as a direct result of the earthquake, but were destroyed as a result of the walls collapsing on them. Because of this accident, the homes of a majority of personnel were totally destroyed or were irreparable and their belongings were destroyed altogether. Twenty percent of the 84-unit residential town of the plant was also destroyed. The plant's internal buildings, including the security, information and inspection building, administrative halls, warehouses, boilers, transformers, turbines, and cooling systems of control rooms were generally more or less damaged. After a general inspection, damages were estimated at nearly 10 billion rials.

#### **Specifications and General Conditions of the Plant**

The Lowshan plant was constructed on a 1-square-kV site and has 480 technical, administrative, maintenance, and service personnel. Its employees work in three regular and one alert shifts and keep the plant and the surrounding mountains operating around the clock. The 360-MW Lowshan plant continues to operate with 300-MW capacity (a 60-MW-capacity gas unit is currently under repair), according to its director, and is capable of providing for the needs of a region as vast as Gilan Province.

There are other plants in our country with high-, medium-, and low-capacities, such as Neka plant (steam and gas), Bandar Abbas plant (steam), Rey plant (gas), Martyred Rajai'e plant, 15 km from Qazvin, (steam), Islamabad and Shahid Montazeri in Isfahan (steam), Tabriz and Ramin plants in Ahvaz (steam), and Lowshan plant (gas and steam).

The turbines of some of these plants rotate with gas and/or steam. The gas boiler burns the fuel and its smoke moves the turbine, while the steam boiler rotates turbines with steam.

The Lowshan plant has two steam units, that is, two boilers, that generate steam, and in turn move the turbines of steam units, that have 240-MW capacity (each unit of steam has 120 MW). Along with two gas units with 60-MW-capacity each, Lowshan is a gas and steam plant and a large complex.

There are four large diesel tanks, two boiler units on two sides of the units, and two large cooling systems that function like automobile radiators. Each of these four

units is equipped with a command and control room that oversees their operation, and each is under the supervision of an officer. The gas units of this plant, which were under repair at the time of the earthquake, suffered less damage. Consequently, they were reconstructed very rapidly. The number-two gas unit was repaired three months after the accident, and the first unit was fixed 20 days after the second unit and joined the orbit (system).

In response to the question of predictions and preparations for unexpected accidents, such as earthquakes—which are considered during the construction of power plants—Mr. Qasemi, the plant manager stated that the main equipment of the plant is resistant to earthquakes with a magnitude of up to seven on the Richter scale and there is no more powerful guarantee than this against the earthquakes.

### Reconstruction Process

The unfortunate earthquake, which led to the destruction of the entire systems of the plant—including its water and electrical systems—resulted in the total loss of control over the entire operation. During the first few hours of the accident, with the assistance and cooperation of Tavanir company personnel, the power system of the plant and water were restored within 48 hours. With the hard work of personnel, who had lost their homes and belongings, the reconstruction Jihad (holy war) began. The resettlement plan of homeless personnel started rapidly. It was during this stage that reconstruction was begun in a sad and depressing environment, with empty hands but with strong will power and determination. This struggle was used in two dimensions, that is, in providing equipment and in construction.

#### 1- Reconstruction and restoration of the plant:

- The assembling of turbines and generators and changing the seals of units one and two;
- Reconstruction of all cylinders and the cooling tower of unit one;
- Reconstruction and repair of all units of the plant, unit pumps, the main pumps of the cooling tower and electromotors, complete repair of steam boilers of units one and two, insulation of unit two's boiler, and the fans of steam units one and two;
- Construction and repair of all pipes and joints and exit docket of generators of steam units one and two, all electromotors, and electrical orbits and the instrument systems of steam units;
- Insulation and painting of all chimneys;
- Complete reconstruction of 230-kV and 63-kV transfer posts and many other repairs.

[12 Feb p 11]

#### [Text] 2- Reconstruction of plant and Harzvil town:

- Strengthening and solidifying foundations and turbines of steam units one and two through the injection of cement;

- Injection of chemicals into the cracked columns of the turbine hall and their complete repair;
- Reconstruction of the ceiling poles of turbine hall and metal structures of boiler and unit elevators;
- Tearing down and reconstruction of pt. [as published] rooms of units' generators, cracked walls of electric and metal workshop;
- Reconstruction of the 6-kV room and control room of steam units, the ceiling of the electric repair shop and metal work, water switches in the turbine hall and the boiler;
- Tearing down the upper and side cement walls of turbine hall and replacing the metal structure with fiber glass;
- Tearing down and cleaning the walls of the motor pool building, motor repair shop, fire station, security guard room, and construction of the store, and maintenance room, steam and gas turbine workshops, gas station and diesel tank and the 33-kV room, the fire station of gas units, mosque, warehouse, information and inspection;
- Reconstruction of all buildings and walls of the plant, and hundreds of other large and small cases.

### The Plant Township

Four km from the plant on the north side of the main highway is the township of Harzvil with 84 residential units, of which 17 units were ready to be delivered by 15 Azar [6 December] of this year. In the second phase, 21 more units were to be delivered by the first part of [the month of] Dey [22 December-20 March].

The township, in which several of its units housed guests from Tehran as well as local authorities during its inauguration, is composed of one-, two-, and three-bedroom units all fully equipped, with a beautiful view of high and low hills surrounding it and a vast horizon that may be useful healing the pain and grief of the workers of the plant.

The reconstruction of this township is assigned to the Gasad Company (contractor), which won the bid last year and has currently undertaken its reconstruction. It is said that the remaining incomplete units will be completed by the month of Esfand [20 February-20 March] of the current year.

Adjacent to this township, which belongs to the power plant, there is another township belonging to the water company, but for unknown reasons, no steps have been taken to reconstruct its damaged units to this date.

Undoubtedly, the few residential units of the township are not and will not be enough to meet the demands of the workers of this plant. Moreover, the depth of the tragedy and the destruction is so extensive that the mere reconstruction of the 84-unit township of Lowshan will not play a significant part in improving the housing conditions of this region and its oppressed and faithful people. It is perfectly clear that the reconstruction of towns that are earthquake prone, particularly Manjil,

Rudbar, and Lowshan needs much more money, a larger workforce, provisions, hard work, honesty, and care than the little it has now.

The township is allocated to a small number of workers who are not native, and/or their homes are located far from the plant. But what are the native workers expected to do, those who have lost their homes and belongings? Is the payment of housing aid of 75,000 to 100,000, or at the most 150,000 tomans (according to the plant manager), to help the workers with rental and security deposits the solution and will it remedy their countless problems and cure their pains?...

### Complaints During Plant Opening

During the official ceremony for inauguration the plant and the introduction of its two steam units into the electric orbit, Safai'e Farahani, the general manager of the Tavanir Company; Mr. Soleimani, deputy general manager; Haj Aqa Vahedi Damghani, the Friday prayer leader of Roodbar; Mr. Qasemi, plant manager; the governor, local notables, the press and reporters from Tehran participated. This ceremony ended with several speeches and a visit to different sections and units of the plant and Harzvil township. At the ceremony's conclusion, the plant manager and officials responsible for different units got together with reporters of SALAM, KEYHAN, ETELA'AT, RESALAT, and the QODS News Agency and discussed some of the shortcomings and problems associated with reconstruction. They indicated that while they were happy and felt proud of the reconstruction of the plant, which has brought fame to Lowshan and its cement factory, at the bottom of their hearts they resented the improper and undeserving attitude of authorities toward them. Their calm statements also revealed that authorities in the Ministry of Energy and elsewhere did not give them proper credit for this useful, interesting, and effective event and settled for a routine ceremony.

The security manager of the plant said that those engineers, experts, and volunteers who mostly left their homes and accepted all the pains and problems of being away from their homes and participated in this reconstruction deserved more appreciation than a passing ceremony, because reconstruction took place in a truly difficult and exhausting situation.

Financial pressure, lack of housing, difficult conditions, depressing environment, sad hearts, lack of water and food, all pressured the souls and bodies of the workers, employees, experts, and plant authorities. But it was under those conditions that their struggle, along with their faith and the sacrifices they made, produced the desired results, and led to completing the reconstruction, an achievement made possible by their own hands.

Yes, the struggle of the one who had lost his wife and five children produced results and the plant was reconstructed and became operational. Consequently, it would have been appropriate to arrange a special ceremony for them. They did not expect rewards, prizes,

favors and/or anything else. But they were wondering whether an official note (certificate) of appreciation, or public expression of acknowledgement of them or at least of their representatives, would have not been too much to expect.

### Manjil Dam Solid as Ever

The visit to and inauguration of Lowshan plant led to a visit to the high dam of Manjil. The 108-meter dam with a 100-meter width and a 350-meter length, which is still a few months away from the water saving season, was damaged extensively during the earthquake last year. Three hundred fifty employees work in this dam that was built by French companies in 1338 [21 March 1959-20 March 1960]. The dam's power plant has five units, two of which were completed in 1342 [21 March 1963-20 March 1964], and the other three in 1346 [21 March 1967-20 March 1968]. Sixty people work in this plant. Their manager, Mr. Afzalipoor, lives in Rasht and commutes daily. During the visit to this dam he told our reporter:

The useful reservoir capacity of this dam is 1,800-billion cubic meters, which was reduced to 1,300-billion cubic meters last year as a result of mire. But by running the water of the dam to the Sefidrood River and through irrigation, the mire was moved to a great extent and the reservoir's capacity reached the desired level.

The upper part of this great dam, which cracked in length during the earthquake, was repaired and reconstructed through a very sophisticated and technical process through the joint efforts of Italian and Spanish experts. A kind of special cement glue was injected at the crack point with heavy pressure from the top. With 6-centimeter-thick wires and 10 meters apart, the lower and upper parts of the crack were literally sewn together, and the dam was reconstructed and was better than before.

The power plant of this dam has five turbines operated by water pressure that runs into them through 12-meter-thick pipes, and that then start large electric producing generators. Each generator has a 17,500-kV capacity and their total production capacity is about 25 percent of the Lowshan plant. This region is always under an earthquake threat. The cracking of mountains around the dam often causes trouble for the traffic on the road.

At the present time, the dam is empty. Toward the end of Bahman [19 February] the process of water saving begins, and the huge and natural reservoir with its 1,800-billion-cubic-meter capacity becomes truly spectacular. Of course, construction of a dam is a very technical and highly specialized field but there are possibilities for acquiring this expertise in our country. At present, according to experts, we have the capability to construct cement dams, but nothing comparable to the Manjil dam. However, because billions of cubic meter of running water of our country is wasted each year, construction of dams is considered one of the fundamental



plans in national development as well as agriculture and water control. This need is another reason to urge our experts and authorities to construct dams (of any kind) in every point of this vast Islamic fatherland. In the past, thanks to the power and determination of her men and women, Iran was known as the country of qanats, wells, and springs. Now because of necessity and survival, Iran should turn toward the construction of dams, to control the million liters of water that is wasted each year, so that the civilized, ancient, powerful, and Islamic country of ours becomes known as the "country of Dams," thanks to the determination of her men and women.

#### TV Commentary Views Economic Developments

LD2103225392 Tehran IRIB Television First Program  
Network in Persian 1446 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The most visible developments of the last year and the economic programs currently under way were the most important topics in the speeches of the esteemed leader [Khamene'i] and the president of our country in their New Year messages. The policies and programs of the government regarding economic balance and freedom, which have succeeded in reducing the budget deficit considerably and increasing economic growth, speak of an increase in the level of investment in the country.

The increase in nonoil exports has led to the use of previously unused capacities in production. This in itself has led to a fall in unemployment, an increase in revenue from investment, and a rise in the rate of economic growth. Reaching the level of nonoil exports envisaged in the first Five-Year Plan, which was set at \$2.5 billion, guaranteed Iran's success in increasing diversification of production.

In the housing sector during the past year, we witnessed the transfer of 120,000 pieces of land and residential units alongside the start of the reconstruction work on 500 towns and cities that were heavily damaged during the imposed war. Further, the allocation of 165.37 billion rials of credit on top of the \$20 billion investment by the Ministry of Industry in coordination with the office of deprived areas led to the creation and establishment of industrial production units in the rural and deprived areas of the country. This move is another development in the government's success in extending its policy of eradicating deprivation. [passage omitted]

At the start of the Five-Year Plan, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran faced many industrial and production limitations, in view of the difficulties arising from the legacy of unfinished programs from previous years and the extensive damage caused by the imposed war. It was unable fully to utilize existing capabilities in various plans. In addition, population growth alongside the increase in consumer demands led to an intensification of the inflation crisis. These factors, together with the presence of refugees, led to slower developments in

economic growth. According to the representative of the UN High Commission for Refugees, Iran is sheltering over a quarter of the world's refugees.

Meanwhile, the developing economy of Iran, which is in the midst of growth, has managed to carry out many infrastructural, industrial, and educational programs to the best of its ability while carrying these heavy burdens. [passage omitted]

#### Recent High Prices Questioned

92AS0808B Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian  
15 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] High prices and selling at high prices are oppressive. Prices have increased progressively, and it seems that there is no end to it. Economic officials either justify these phenomena or go along with it contentedly, either they are silent, or again they go along with it contentedly.

However, is this situation justifiable? Can one go along with this situation easily? Those who have assets and wealth naturally conform to every situation. Low-income people and wage earners, however, whose expenses increase because of price increases before every "wage increase," certainly have serious problems in the face of these high prices and even disruptions of their lives. Price escalations have become backbreaking, and it seems that no one considers himself responsible for answering and dealing with the problem. In some cases prices have become momentary, and even the rates for government services and goods made by government-affiliated producers are no better than the rates for private-sector products.

In the last days of the year, instead of the people having the opportunity to make purchases for New Year's Eve, they are merely observers of goods due to the astronomical increases in prices. During the blessed days of Ramadan, the procurement of meat, chicken and other needs for the predawn and fast-breaking meals has become impossible for deprived people. Don't officials have any intention of preventing these astronomical price increases?

#### Import of Meat With Floating Currency

92AS0786I Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 15 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] Economic Service—The free importation of poultry meat with floating currency to reduce the price of this protein substance was begun with the approval of the Economic Council.

Likewise, to break the false price of poultry on the market, this week 1,500 tons of meat will be distributed at the approved price by the Tehran Poultry Keepers Union.

'Ali Dara'i, spokesman for the Ministry of the Reconstruction Crusade, gave an exclusive interview to KEYHAN's economic service correspondent. While discussing the above, he also added: By the end of the



current year [20 March 1992] a significant quantity of poultry meat, fish, and red meat will be distributed to make life easier for citizens, and to put an end to the long lines in front of the National Meat Organization's stores. Based on a strict order from Engineer Foruzesh, minister of the reconstruction crusade, from 0700 1900 the National Meat Organization's stores are to sell red meat continuously. He added: In this regard, in addition to selling fish, the stores of the National Fisheries Organization will also sell red meat at the approved price.

The spokesman for the Ministry of the Reconstruction Crusade said: The work of unloading a ship carrying imported fish has already been completed and 100 refrigerated trucks are hauling 2,700 tons of imported fish to Tehran, and with the distribution of this much desirable fish, definitely the price of protein substances such as red meat, poultry meat and fish will go down on the market.

Dara'i said poultry meat became expensive because of the arrival of the blessed month of Ramadan and the New Year's holiday. He said: Last year in the months of Bahman and Esfand [21 January-20 March 1991] our poultry capacity was 23 million chicks, and this figure in Bahman and Esfand this year [21 January-20 March 1992] increased to 32 million one-day chicks.

He added: To reduce the price of poultry meat, the Tehran Poultry Keepers Union declared its willingness to distribute 1,500 tons of poultry this week through chain stores and worker and staff cooperatives at the approved price. He noted: In this regard the Mashhad Poultry Keepers Union began distributing poultry at 165 toman per kg.

Continuing the interview, the spokesman for the Ministry of the Reconstruction Crusade discussed red meat imports, and expressed the hope that with the free import of red meat at floating foreign exchange rates, the price of this protein substance needed by families would be adjusted on the market. He noted: Likewise, imported New Zealand lamb, which is fat free, will soon be distributed by the National Meat Organization's stores.

Dara'i added: The National Meat Organization, affiliated with the Ministry of the Reconstruction Crusade, has undertaken to distribute rationed meat and in this regard it has declared its willingness to sell 1 kg per person of superior rationed meat, and it is appropriate for the Economic Mobilization Staff of the Ministry of Commerce to announce ration coupons for this purpose.

In conclusion, he discussed criticism from the general manager of the Tehran Office of Commerce concerning the lack of cooperation by the Ministry of the Reconstruction Crusade with direct sales expositions with regard to the distribution of petrochemical substances at the exhibitions. He said: In general, in the area of petrochemical substances the Ministry of the Reconstruction Crusade is merely a coordinator, while the Ministry of Commerce is responsible for importing red meat and it can act directly in this regard. With regard to

poultry meat, I must note that the production and distribution of poultry meat is unregulated and the 14 exhibitions making direct sales of goods in Tehran Province, just as they sold clothing, food and other things, could have negotiated with the Poultry Keepers Union and in this way they could have had a booth selling poultry meat and eggs.

### Conditions, Manner of Purchase of Stocks Announced

92AS0777B Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 3 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] Economic Service—The details on the delivery of 33 percent of the shares of government factories to workers, requiring foremen at large factories to build organizational houses for 30 percent of the workers, and the conditions for electing the worker of the year were announced yesterday morning at a news conference by Seyyed Habibollah 'Ajayibi, deputy minister of labor and social affairs for social affairs.

Our correspondent reports that he began by discussing the procedure for turning over 33 percent of the shares of government factories to workers. He said: Based on a measure approved by the Council of Ministers, the shares of factories belonging to the government will either be sold for cash or by installment payments to workers, at a price midway between the nominal price and the market price. He added: Workers may pay cash for these shares up to a ceiling of one million rials, or on installment payments they may pay 30 percent in cash and the remaining 70 percent in the form of installments. In the installment payment plan, the Financial Organization for Spreading Ownership of Production Units will buy the shares on the worker's behalf and the worker must pay the organization for the shares in installments within seven years.

Seyyed Habibollah 'Ajayibi noted: The shares in excess of the 33 percent will be sold to workers in deprived areas and workers performing difficult and hazardous jobs. Continuing his remarks, the deputy minister of labor and social affairs discussed the sale to workers of the shares of 14 vehicle-producing companies. Based on a new measure, the shares of 14 companies that mostly produce vehicles will be turned over to workers. In this regard compensation will be paid to workers who were previous shareholders in these companies, to be paid either in cash or in the form of the transfer of files at the same price approved by the government.

The deputy minister of labor and social affairs discussed the obligation of foremen at large factories to build organizational houses for 30 percent of the workers in the relevant units. He said: Based on this measure, foremen who have lands in excess of the expansion plan must allocate it on a priority basis to build worker housing.

Likewise, factories that have machinery must allocate it for leveling the ground and preparing it for construction.

In this regard the Social Security Organization has set aside 50 billion rials to produce mass worker housing. Banks are also required to adjust their credit rates to the worker rate for worker housing.

At the same time the Ministry of Housing will cooperate in the transfer of land, the Ministry of Commerce will cooperate in the procurement of construction materials, the municipality will cooperate by issuing permits, and the supervision of this work will be done by the Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Housing, and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Construction.

Seyyed Habibollah 'Ajayibi noted that the foremen required to implement this project based on Paragraph

B of Article 138 of the Tax Law, are tax-exempt in this regard. Concerning the election of the worker of the year, he said: The worker of the year will be elected in three stages. In the first stage, an exemplary worker will be chosen by the factory managers and the Islamic council, and will be presented during Government Week.

In the second stage, the province model worker will be chosen from among the factory exemplary workers, and will be introduced during Daheh-ye Fajr. In the third stage, the worker of the year will be chosen from among the province model workers and introduced on Worker Day.

**First Satellite Receiver in Semnan Operational***92AS0808D Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 16 Mar 92 p 4*

[Text] Semnan—JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Correspondent—In ceremonies attended by the governor general of Semnan, the first satellite receiver for the Semnan Central Voice and Visage Station was put into service yesterday morning.

This receiver, which can receive programs directly from networks one and two, will have a beneficial effect in raising the quality of the Voice and Visage Station in Semnan Province.

Likewise, with the utilization of this receiver a reserve communications line will be created for the Semnan Central Voice and Visage Station, and technical problems in broadcasting the national programs of Voice and Visage will be minimized. This receiver was installed and put into service by the repair and maintenance unit for the Tehran district television transmitters.

**Fertilizer Distributed Among Semnan Farmers***92AS0786C Tehran SALAM in Persian 15 Mar 92 p 11*

[Text] Semnan—IRNA Correspondent—In the area of procurement by agricultural organizations, for the first time the fertilizer needed by farmers in Semnan Province was provided to them one season ahead of planting time.

'Abbasi, supervisor of the Chemical Fertilizer Distribution and Pesticide Production Corporation of Semnan Province announced this yesterday to IRNA's correspondent. He said: In this regard, in the current year almost 30,000 tons of nitrate and phosphate fertilizer was distributed among the province's farmers, which is 3,000 tons more than the amount of fertilizer distributed last year.

He added: Farmers obtained all of the various types of chemical fertilizer they needed for the spring and fall planting seasons of 1370 and 1371 [1991 and 1992] on time and before the beginning of the season.

He added: Based on the new policies, the necessary new warehouses are to be built and stocked with the fertilizer and pesticides needed by farmers one season in advance.

Concerning the price of fertilizer, 'Abbasi said: In the new agricultural year, in view of the successes achieved between this company and the shipping companies with regard to not collecting expenses behind bills of lading, the farmers can get nitrate fertilizer at 99 rials per kilogram and phosphate fertilizer at 13 rials per kilogram.

Concerning the procurement of the pesticides needed by farmers, he said: There is no problem in this regard and a number of needed plant pesticides have been shipped to the province and the rest are being shipped.

**Kerman Satellite Ground Stations Operational***LD0104121192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 31 Mar 92*

[Text] Four satellite ground stations have been made operational in Kerman province. Our correspondent reports from Kerman:

[Unidentified correspondent] The opening of four satellite ground stations in Kerman province has enabled 33,000 residents in Esfandagheh, Ghishigan, Kuhbanan, and Goruh to enjoy the programs of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The television transmitters of Esfandagheh and Goruh in Giroft, and Ghishigan in Baft, each have a power unit of five watts, while the television transmitter in Kuhbanan in Zarand has a power unit of 10 watts. With the opening of these stations, from now on the residents of Esfandagheh will be able to enjoy the programs of the first network on Channel Seven, while the residents of Ghishigan and Goruh can watch them on Channel 11. The residents of Kuhbanan will be able to watch the programs of the second network on Channel 11.

It should be noted that these satellite ground stations were made operational by the staff of the television transmission repair and maintenance unit of the Kerman center of the Voice and Vision.

**Official on Need To Preserve Natural Resources***92AS0786B Tehran SALAM in Persian 15 Mar 92 p 11*

[Text] Esfahan—SALAM Correspondent—At a press conference yesterday, the general manager of natural resources of Esfahan Province discussed the importance of preserving natural resources. He said: Every year we observe Natural Resources Week from 15 to 21 Esfand [6-12 March]. Based on the importance of natural resources to us, we should make every day natural resources day. He discussed the accomplishments during the year 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] by the General Office of Natural Resources of Esfahan Province. He said:

This office has implemented 14 programs in the framework of 34 projects, and at the same time the current credits for this general office increased 25 percent over the year 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991], and these credits have increased more than 300 percent in provincial and national projects.

Continuing, the general manager of natural resources of Esfahan Province discussed this office's programs during the Five-Year Plan. He said: This general office is operating in the framework of the Five-Year Plan. Its main activities have to do with desert reclamation, leveling sand dunes, and the production of 900 saplings.

He said that this office's forestry and pasture restoration activities have been successful.

Continuing, he discussed the incorporation of natural resources under the Ministry of the Reconstruction Crusade. He said:

With the transfer of 150 reconstruction crusade personnel and experts to this general office, the natural resources experts have been reinforced, and with the programs we have in mind, we can answer the province's natural resource problems.

In conclusion, the general manager of natural resources of Esfahan Province discussed the program to control transhumance that is to begin next year, and he asked the tribes not to migrate before the month of Khordad [22 May-21 June].

#### **Law Enforcement Functions in Hamadan Announced**

*92AS0786A Tehran SALAM in Persian 15 Mar 92 p 11*

[Text] Hamadan—SALAM Correspondent—Brigadier General Musavi, commander of the Hamadan Precinct Police, gave a press conference in which he discussed the accomplishments of the various units of this force. He began by discussing the persistent and relentless struggle against the merchants of death. During the current year, 13 active gangs involved with narcotics from other provinces, especially Sistan va Baluchestan, who were distributing these substances in the province, were destroyed. Sixty-four major distributors in addition to 1,286 individuals in the same connection were arrested, and from these individuals were seized 10.513 kg of heroin, 22.949 kg of opium, 5.77 kg of burnt opium residue, and 36.437 kg of hashish. The defendants, along with the confiscated substances, were turned over to the proper authorities. He added: Likewise, by implementing three province-wide operations, the personnel of this force arrested 1,829 addicts and delivered them to rehabilitation centers for treatment. Continuing this meeting, he discussed the destruction of seven important shoplifting gangs and likewise the arrest of five active automobile theft gangs. He added: The automobile thieves even operated outside the province. With the arrest of 120 thieves who stole automobiles as individuals, a total of 146 burglaries and 97 thefts from shops and factories done by the aforementioned criminals have been solved and assets totaling 181.500.000 [as published] rials in value, 57 vehicles and 48 motorcycles valued at 531.950.000 [as published] rials were seized and in some cases returned to their former owners.

He said: Likewise, 34 pickpockets were arrested by the personnel of this force, and with the seizure of 74 stolen items from them a total of 24.949.000 [as published] rials cash in this connection was taken from them and returned to its original owners.

He announced: In the same period of time 56 perpetrators of fraud were also arrested, and in this regard also the sum of 2.405.142.000 [as published] rials cash was recovered from them and turned over to the judicial authorities. In the area of fighting social corruption, he

said: With the establishment of uniformed and secret patrols, six major alcoholic beverage-producing gangs were destroyed and 32.336 [as published] liters of alcohol with the associated equipment were seized, and in this regard 25 individuals were arrested. He announced that 3,300 people were arrested for drinking. General Musavi also added: In the same regard 257 video devices with 1,853 vulgar films, 1,250 vulgar music cassettes, and 1,646 vulgar photographs were seized and 400 individuals arrested. He added: In the same regard eight active gangs, which were procuring and distributing video films, were destroyed and four other gangs that were active among young adolescents were arrested. During this talk he announced that during the year 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] 35 sidearms, 32 combat weapons, and 25 unauthorized hunting weapons with more than 1,531 rounds of ammunition and 300 grams of narcotics were seized, and the defendants were turned over to judicial authorities.

The Hamadan Precinct Police Force commander said: Since the beginning of the project to issue one-day passes and driver licenses, 11,747 passes have been issued and 1,270 other passes were renewed. In the same period of time, 2,547 first-degree driver licenses and 93.5 [as published] second-degree driver licenses were delivered to applicants and 2,073 transportation vehicles were licensed. In conclusion he added that in the same year in the cities of Molayer, Nehavand, and Tuyserkan a driver-license issuing branch was opened and offices were established and began operating in the precincts of Marpanj, Ashineh, Jurqan, and Khazir.

Correspondents asked him why in the cities of Tehran and Qom video devices are bought and sold openly but it is a crime to possess them in Hamadan. He said: Merely possessing a video device is not a crime, because there are about 20,000 video devices in Hamadan, which are used by most officials and even in the seminaries. What leads to criminal prosecution is the manner in which the video devices are used.

#### **Hamadan Province Law Enforcement Activities Detailed**

*92AS0807C Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 15 Mar 92 p 4*

[Text] Hamadan—JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Correspondent—This year 13 narcotics procurement and smuggling gangs have been identified and destroyed by the antinarcotics unit of the Hamadan Precinct Police Force.

These gangs, mostly from the provinces of Sistan va Baluchestan and Kerman, were importing narcotics into the province of Hamadan. A total of 10.553 kg of heroin, 22.549 kg of opium, 5.77 kg of burnt opium residue, and 36.437 kg of hashish were confiscated, and in this regard 64 smugglers were arrested and turned over to the legal authorities.

Brigadier General Musavi, commander of the Hamadan Precinct Police, gave a press conference in which he discussed the above and other accomplishments of the various units of this force. He said: Last year the brothers of the intelligence unit identified and destroyed 12 gangs of burglars and automobile thieves. In this regard 120 thieves were arrested, and assets totaling 713.450 million rials in value were confiscated.

He cited other activities by this unit, including the arrest of 56 perpetrators of fraud on charges of 31 cases of fraud for the sum of 2,405,140,000 rials. He said: Two gangs of automobile thieves were recently identified and destroyed in the cities of Hamadan and Molayer.

He added: These gangs stole automobiles over a wide area.

He also said: With the arrest of 17 members of the Molayer gang, 90 stolen automobiles were found and confessions were obtained for the thefts of 33 other vehicles.

Brig. Gen. Musavi added: The automobile thieves in Hamadan bought documents on damaged and destroyed vehicles and immediately transferred them to the stolen automobiles, and they then sold these automobiles on the market with counterfeit documents and at high prices.

He said: With the alertness of the officials in the intelligence group, this gang was identified and in this regard five individuals were arrested and they confessed to the above charges.

The commander of the Hamadan Precinct Police Force said:

This year in the area of fighting social corruption, this force has established uniformed and secret patrols and has succeeded in identifying and destroying six major alcoholic beverage-producing gangs. In this regard 32,326 liters of alcohol with the associated equipment were seized and in this regard 25 individuals were arrested.

Citing other measures taken by this unit, he mentioned the identification and destruction of eight active gangs which were procuring and distributing vulgar video films, and the confiscation of 257 video devices, 1,853 vulgar films, 1,250 vulgar music cassettes, and 1,646 shocking photographs. He added: In this regard 400 individuals were arrested and turned over to the legal authorities.

Brig. Gen. Musavi said: In the area of confiscating arms and ammunition, the brothers in the smuggling group seized 92 unauthorized sidearms, combat and hunting weapons of various kinds, along with 1,530 rounds of ammunition.

He discussed traffic control activities, noting that this year 1,949 first- and second-degree driver licenses, motorcycle and duplicate licences were issued by this

unit. He noted: A significant number of these licenses were issued after the implementation of the emergency license-issuing program.

Continuing, he mentioned the issuance of 11,747 passes by the pass-issuing unit of the Hamadan Precinct Police Force. He said: To make life easier for the people and to expedite the issuance of passes this year, this year pass-issuing units have been opened in the municipalities of Molayer, Nehavand and Tuyserkan and have officially begun operating.

In conclusion, the commander of the Hamadan Precinct Police Force mentioned the opening of six new police stations in the province as examples of other operations by this force, and he asked the people of the Province of Hamadan: Help the police force to reach its goals on a more extensive basis.

### Wildlife of Hamadan in Danger of Extinction

92AS0786K Tehran SALAM in Persian 11 Mar 92 p 15

[Text] Hamadan—SALAM Correspondent—Our correspondent reports that the severe snows, which began Monday night, are unprecedented this winter and the people are faced with fuel shortages to the point that the free-market kerosene being sold at a limited number of gasoline pumps has not solved the problem. Based on this report, with the heavy snowfall and the lack of feed at high elevation, herds of mountain sheep and rams have descended to the province's village areas.

Samadzadeh, general manager of environmental affairs for Hamadan Province, said in regard to this: Wild animals who travel in herds and a large number of animals such as wolves, foxes, jackals, and birds who live in natural habitats, have turned to rural areas for refuge because of the pressure of hunger.

In conclusion he added: To protect these animals, significant quantities of hand feed have been poured in the high elevation areas so that they will be able to receive nourishment from it. In conclusion Samadzadeh asked the rural people in the area not attack the animals and to cooperate with officials in the habitat areas so that the wildlife in the province will not be threatened with extinction.

### Three Telephone Centers Inaugurated in Tabriz

92WT0137Y Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 12 Feb 92 p 13

[Text] Social Service—Three telephone centers with a capacity of 60,000 telephone numbers and an installation cost of more than 2.1 billion rials were put into service in Tabriz during the joyous days of Dahe-ye Fajr of the Islamic revolution in the presence of Engineer Gharazi, minister of post, telegraph, and telephone.

Our mobile correspondent reports that throughout his trip to the province of East Azarbaijan, while inaugurating new telephone centers in the city of Tabriz,



Engineer Gharazi held separate meetings with Shamil Musayof, minister of communications and Qarayof, parliamentary deputy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in which they discussed and exchanged views concerning the expansion of mutual relations and cooperation in communications matters.

During the opening of one of the telephone centers in Tabriz, Engineer Gharazi, minister of post, telegraph, and telephone, gave a talk concerning the nation's telephone activities. He said: With the opening of telephone resources in the deprived areas, the provision of intercity and international resources and the use of satellite communications, striking progress has now been made in all areas, so that in the year 1357 [21 March 1978-20 March 1979], there were 312 villages with telephone service in the nation, while at the end of the month of Azar this year [21 December 1991] the number of villages with telephone service had reached 4,616.

Concerning the assignment of telephones in the cities, he said: In the year 1357 there were 1,165,677 installed telephones and 850,800 working telephone numbers, while at the end of the month of Azar this year there were 2,692,756 installed telephones and 2,321,529 working telephones.

The minister of post, telegraph, and telephone then detailed the extent of telephone resources in the province of East Azerbaijan. He said: Before the revolution there were 14 villages in this province with telephone service, but by the end of the month of Azar this year more than 540 villages in the province had telephone service.

He added: In the year 1372 [21 March 1993 - 20 March 1994] 1,552 villages in this province will have telephone service.

Engineer Gharazi discussed the extraordinary increase in installed telephones in the province of East Azerbaijan. He said: While before the Islamic revolution the total installed telephones in this province was 58,000 telephone numbers, this year this number increased to more than 178,000 telephone numbers.

The minister of post, telegraph, and telephone emphasized the special place of the province of East Azerbaijan in the nation's telephone service expansion program. He said: At the end of the National Economic and Social Development Plan, when the number of assigned telephones from the telephone company will have reached 6 million numbers, the share of the province of East Azerbaijan in this total will be 400,000 numbers, of which 200,000 will be connected in Tabriz.

He added: Currently 120,000 telephone numbers have been assigned in Tabriz, and the rest will be assigned in the next two years.

Engineer Gharazi also discussed postal services. He said: Mail delivery time, which used to be 120 hours, has now been reduced to 50 hours.

In conclusion, he discussed the time of putting into operation the Islamic Republic of Iran's special satellite. He said: In the last two years the necessary designs have been made, and more than 50 percent of the work in this area has been completed. If the credits are opened, the remainder of the work will be done soon.

It is to be noted that the Tabriz Telephone Centers, with the names Aburayhan, Bahar, and Vali 'Asr were all put into service in ceremonies attended by the minister of post, telegraph, and telephone, the governor general of the province of East Azerbaijan, the Majles deputy from this province, officials and directors of government organizations, and the zealous people of the municipality of Tabriz. Based on the same report, a post office in Moragheh and a telephone center in the district of Basmenj were also put into service.

#### Health Clinic for Tabriz City Hall Workers

92AS0786D Tehran SALAM in Persian 15 Mar 92 p 11

[Text] Tabriz—SALAM Correspondent—In ceremonies attended by Engineer Musavi, the mayor of Tabriz and officials and workers of the municipality of Tabriz, praise and thanks were offered for the labors of the municipality's sincere and toiling workers.

At these ceremonies Engineer Musavi praised the sincere municipal workers for their sanitation and hygienic labors in the city. He said: The municipality's officials constantly work to create basic comforts for the workers, and in this regard a special medical clinic for the municipality's workers will soon be opened.

At the end of this ceremony, after the awarding prizes to the model workers of the municipality of Tabriz, official hiring orders were given to 80 workers.

#### Rafsanjan Mayor Details Development Projects

92AS0807A Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 11 Mar 92 p 10

[Text] Engineer Rahimi, the mayor of Rafsanjan, told our correspondent about the most important development activities, future programs, and services rendered in Rafsanjan.

Mr. Rahimi discussed the municipal budget. He said: Last year the municipal budget of 300 million tomans, which is just based on the municipal revenues, was approved by the deputy director of the City Council, all of which was used. We even had more revenue than this, and in the last three months of the year [22 December 1991-20 March 1992], we were obliged to send a supplementary budget based on 518 million tomans, about 40 percent of which is the municipal development budget.

Concerning implementation of the program to asphalt the roads. He said: Last year we made plans to asphalt all of the alleys and streets. This work was begun on a regional basis, and in some areas we no longer have any alleys that have not been asphalted. Likewise, based on

promises we have made, God willing, by the end of the first six months of next year [22 September 1992], we will have no more streets that have not been asphalted, and we hope to succeed in carrying out these programs.

In the same regard he added: Currently the work of asphaltting the roads and streets is proceeding rapidly and on an emergency basis. A number of streets also are being (surveyed), having their beds prepared and being graded, and God willing, by the end of the first six months of next year work on them will be completed. The areas that have been asphalted include Kamalabad, Ku-ye Saheb ol-Zaman, the 'Abbasabad area and about 80 percent of the village of Sheykh and the towns of val-Fajr One and Two, which have been transferred by the Urban Lands Organization. These areas have been asphalted and the approximately 30 percent that remains is now being asphalted. Some areas in the city, including the Rahmatabad area, have also been 90 percent asphalted.

He added: Work is also now under way on (surveying) and sidewalk. In this regard, four teams are now working in the city. One team is making mosaic sidewalks. Two teams are making roadbeds and laying asphalt. They are asphaltting the sidewalks and another team is also working on the city's central streets.

Mr Rahimi said: Next year we plan to approximately double the sidewalk-making teams because the municipality is behind in the making of sidewalks. Currently one team is repairing and rebuilding the city's streets. Next year this team will also be increased, probably to four teams, for rebuilding and repairing curbs and old gutters.

He added: The municipality's programs include rebuilding and beautifying the parks, and Azadi Park in the city is one of the city's most beautiful. The next park is Ebrahim Park, which is the city's central park and has been rebuilt. Enqelab Park, which is opposite the medical college, 'Edalat Park, opposite police headquarters, and Basij Park have all been rebuilt.

Parks have also been built in Ahmadabad, and the municipality's future plans include the parks opposite 'Ali ib Abi Taleb (peace be upon him) Hospital, the park opposite the pistachio company, Shohada' park and several other parks in the city. A very basic task for the municipality is to mechanize the administrative system. On 20 Farvardin [9 April], the computer system, which is in the form of a network, will be put into service. Our computer network has seven computers that have been installed at various locations, and all administrative affairs, including calculating tax revenues, new construction, calculating wages and matters pertaining to assigning work to individuals and personnel, will be done by computer. Likewise we will give all statistics and information to the computer system and the groups working on property, buildings, development, green space, and other groups in the municipality will all use the computer system.

He discussed the municipality's other programs. He said: The computer software program is now being completed. Recently they came to test it and there were minor changes so they took it away for modification. A number of the computer hardware items have also been purchased, and a number of others will also be purchased soon. The goal of computerizing the system has been set so that the work of the public will be done at a high level of quality, quickly and without mistakes. The systems that we have put into service all have codes and just anyone cannot get hold of the computer, and private individuals can work with the computer.

Concerning the procurement of a formula for calculating or erasing something from the computer, this possibility does not exist for anyone. It will only be possible to enter data into the computers that will be installed, and they will not even accept wrong information. Elsewhere in his talk, the mayor of Rafsanjan said: The per capita budget share in our city is very high. If we consider our last year's budget, the sum of some 518 million, with a population of 80,000, it shows that in general the principle of self-help has taken hold among the people of Rafsanjan. In most areas the people help themselves. To the extent reasonable they provide help beyond taxes, and we have had help from the people in many cases. We have also received some help from the respected Majles deputy of the city, Mr. Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyn Hashemian, and this help usually exists every year, and we solve many of our problems in this way. Concerning the payment of taxes, which is done by the public, I have no complaints, because the people pay their taxes on time, and we now have no problems.

Mr. Rahimi added: Some basic thinking must be done concerning the future of the city of Rafsanjan, because the city is rapidly growing, and it has become a university town. Currently in this city we have a medical college, which will soon become a medical sciences college, and we also have Vali 'Asr University, Payame Nur University, and Azad University. Each one has been accepting students in various fields for several years. Shahed University will also be opened in the future, and this ultimately shows that the city is rapidly growing and developing in the direction of a university town. In this regard we have finally begun thinking about a comprehensive plan for the city of Rafsanjan. We have notified the Ministry of Housing that we will pay the costs of the plan. Here we have a master plan, and it may be said that we are the first city not to put this program up on the wall. Rather, we have implemented more than 70 percent of the plan. We have laid out the streets, which were in the master plan, and there are still a couple of beltways for whose construction there are problems.

Likewise, in view of the economic situation in this city, we need a comprehensive plan so that this city will not have numerous problems in the future. Meanwhile, in view of the buying power of the people and the delivery of vehicles by the Vehicle Import Cooperative Company, which will bring traffic problems in the future, we must

do some prior thinking about parking and other technical problems, because vehicles have flooded heavily into this city very quickly.

He added: We have income through the guidelines issued by the Ministry of the Interior in connection with changes in factories, which we deposit in a separate account. He have made it impossible for the mayor's office to spend it. One signature is required by the supervisor of the technical office and two more signatures are required by the mayor's office and the accountant's office. We have separated the city's traffic and parking program. If someone wants to change his property from residential to commercial, it has added value that he pays to the city as a gift. We have put those funds in a special account that is spent only in this connection, and we have destroyed about three old houses that were slowing traffic in the streets.

God willing, in the near future we will build several parking areas on the streets in the center of the city where traffic is heavy.

Mr. Rahimi discussed the municipal recreational centers. He said: With the help of the Rafsanjan Islamic Cooperative Fund and the Be'sat Cultural Foundation, a city recreational facility was built in the city of Rafsanjan, which has been in use about two years, and every year one or two new facilities are added to it to give it more variety. We have built children's parks in about six parts of the city, and all of these have toys. This year also a field has been set aside for soccer in one of the town's fringe areas. Inside it we are building a soccer field to help fellow townsmen with sporting activities. We have also installed table tennis tables in all the parks.

Likewise, for the local and children's parks sports equipment has been ordered, and next year we will install sports equipment in all the local and children's parks, and we are creating other recreational resources.

#### **Chicken Hatching Factory Operational in Birjand** *92AS0786L Tehran SALAM in Persian 14 Mar 92 p 11*

[Text] Birjand-IRNA—Operations to build a one-day chick factory with a nominal capacity of 1.1 million fertile eggs per day, began yesterday in the municipality of Birjand.

IRNA reports that this factory is being built on a three-hectare site with a foundation of 3,000 square meters.

At this ceremony, attended also by the governor and the Friday imam of Birjand, the chairman of the board of directors of the South Khorasan Poultry, Agriculture and Livestock Services Company said: The implementation of this project will cost 250 million rials and \$600,000 in foreign exchange, of which \$260,000 has already been procured.

The credits needed will be procured with the participation of the Sepah Bank and the private sector. He

discussed the fact that part of the machinery and equipment for the factory was purchased from Belgium. He expressed the hope that by the end of next year this unit will go into operation.

When this factory goes into production, the domestic needs of the province and to some extent those of neighboring provinces will be met, and the way will be open for investment to produce and raise poultry in the deprived cities in south Khorasan and in Sistan va Baluchestan Province.

With regard to the activities of the aforementioned company, he also told IRNA's correspondent: This company has 60,000 hens and now produces 500,000 fertile eggs per month, and these eggs produce 350,000 one-day chicks per month.

This many chicks provide 15 percent of the needs of the province.

He added: The necessary agreement was obtained to expand this company to be able keep 30,000 hens for Phase Three, and with the implementation of this project and the operation of the chick factory, the company will be able to produce 750,000 to 800,000 one-day chicks per month.

When this project goes into operation, \$3 million in foreign exchange will be saved annually.

#### **Price of Water Increases Again in Sanandaj**

*92AS0786J Tehran SALAM in Persian 11 Mar 92 p 15*

[Text] Sanandaj—SALAM Correspondent—Our correspondent reports that the increase in the price of water in the last days of the current year and the huge water bills last week have brought the deprived and low-income people of Sanandaj up against serious difficulties with the payment of water bills on the eve of the new year.

Our correspondent reports that the Water Organization of the Municipality of Sanandaj, for unknown reasons, issues bills every five months, which causes progressive increases in the amounts to be paid, and people must pay the penalty for the reduced work done by the officials involved.

Currently the renewed increase in the price of water and the interval of several months between the issuance of bills for water consumption has caused the insertion of sums in excess of 40,000 rials and 60,000 rials, the payment of which, in view of the very low income of the people, takes up most and in some cases all of the monthly incomes of the people on the eve of the new year.

In a telephone interview with our correspondent, the water affairs official of Kordestan Province discussed the increase in water rates. He said: This increase was made in light of guidelines issued by the Ministry of Power. He added: Currently, due to the increased cost of electricity and other expenses, it costs 300 rials to

procure a meter of water, and in light of the current increase, consumer water is still being provided to subscribers at less than cost.

In conclusion it is necessary to mention that it is worthy, in view of the new rate increase, that officials at the Water Organization show a sense of compassion and serious responsibility by reducing the length of the billing cycle for water so that in view of the progressive increases in water rates the deprived and oppressed people of Sanandaj will not be charged too much.

### Some Statistics on Khuzestan Province

92AS0807B Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 14 Mar 92 p 12

[Text] Ahvaz—JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI correspondent—Khuzestan, with an area of about 67,132 square kilometers, is located between 47 degrees 41 minutes and 50 degrees 29 minutes longitude east and 29 degrees 58 minutes to 32 degrees 4 minutes latitude north of the Greenwich Meridian in the southwestern part of the country. This province is bounded on the north by Ilam and Lorestan, on the east by Chahar Mahal va Bakhtiari and Kohgiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad, on the south by the province of Bushehr and the Persian Gulf, and on the west by the nation of Iraq.

Based on the latest national partitions, the province of Khuzestan contains 15 municipalities, 28 cities, 35 districts, and 112 villages. The center of this province is the municipality of Ahvaz and the affiliated cities include Abadan, Andimeshk, Izeh, Bandar Mahshahr, Behbahan, Khorramshahr, Dezful, Dasht-e Azadegan, Shadegan, Shushtar, Masjed-e Soleyman, Shush, Baghmolk, and Haftgol.

Based on the latest census, the population of this province is 3.2 million, 61.5 percent of whom are urban dwellers and 38 percent of whom live in rural areas, and 5 percent of whom are not settled. Because at the time the census figures were taken the migrant tribes were in their summer quarters, taking into account the migrant tribes and the return of all the refugees from the imposed war, the population of the province is higher than the announced figure.

It is worth mentioning that the province's average rate of population growth in the last five years has been 3.46 percent.

The literacy rate of individual six years of age and older in the year 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987] was 59.2 percent. This increased to 72.3 percent in the year 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992]. Likewise the employment rate, which was 77 percent in 1365, increased to 79 percent in the year 1370.

The highest rate of unemployment is in the cities of Khorramshahr, Abadan and Masjed-e Soleyman, with

rates of 35.0, 33.8, and 30.6 percent respectively of the municipality's active population. The highest employment is in the cities of Dezful and Behbahan, with rates of 87.9 and 86.8 percent, respectively.

### Syrup Production Agreement Signed in Khuzestan

92AS0786M Tehran SALAM in Persian 14 Mar 92 p 11

[Text] Ahvaz—IRNA Correspondent—With the signing of a statement of agreement with the Technica Company of Hungary, the syrup production and extraction plant is being built in Khuzestan Province.

IRNA's correspondent reports that the above was announced at the Thursday meeting of the Khuzestan Province Economic Council.

The aforementioned plant will be able to use number-three dates and other surplus materials to produce several kinds of syrup.

Likewise at this meeting the general managers of economic affairs in the governor general's office announced their willingness to buy 200 tons of chicken from domestic producers, which will be distributed in the province until the New Year holidays at 1,380 rials per kg.

He said: In addition, with the authorization of the Economic Council, 1,000 tons of chicken has been purchased abroad for consumption in this province and will be imported during the next month.

At this meeting, Mr. Tula'i, governor general of Khuzestan, asked the deputy minister for livestock affairs in the Ministry of the Reconstruction Crusade to help the low-income classes as much as possible by finding the ways necessary to distribute to them significant quantities of chicken at low prices.

### Kashan Qahrud Dam Becomes Operational

92AS0786F Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 9 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] Kashan—KEYHAN Correspondent—In ceremonies attended by Ayatollah Yasabi, representative of the chief theologian and Friday Imam of Kashan, Mr. Mo'tamedi, governor, and several Kashan officials, the old Qahrud dam of Kashan, which was recently rebuilt, was formally returned to service.

This dam is 26 meters high, 110 meters long, 20 meters wide, and 33 meters thick at the base. With its reconstruction, the annual loss of more than 1 million cubic meters of water will be stopped. The cost of rebuilding this dam was about 25 million rials, and was carried out by the Ministry of the Reconstruction Crusade.

It is necessary to mention that the Qahrud dam of Kashan was built about 400 years ago by order of Sheykh Baha'i, and has been in disuse since the year 1335 [21 March 1956-20 March 1957] due to flooding and the overflowing of its reservoir.



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